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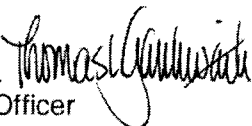
THOMAS L. GARTHWAITE, M.D.
Director and Chief Medical Officer

FRED LEAF
Chief Operating Officer

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES
313 N. Figueroa, Los Angeles, CA 90012
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October 17, 2003

To: Each Supervisor

From: Thomas L. Garthwaite, M.D. 
Director and Chief Medical Officer

SUBJECT: ADVERSE DRUG REACTION REPORTING

This is in response to the Board's September 9, 2003, motion for current Food and Drug Administration (FDA) reporting requirements, the procedures in place in Department of Health Services (DHS) facilities for reporting, and tracking mechanisms for these incidents.

The FDA requests that health professionals voluntarily report adverse drug events. The DHS policy, which is published annually in the DHS Pharmaceutical Formulary, requires that facilities promptly report any significant adverse drug reactions to the FDA. Each DHS facility also requires that staff report adverse drug events to Pharmacy.

In DHS facilities, adverse drug reactions are reported to the Pharmacy via a written adverse drug reporting form or telephone hotline. They are also identified through Pharmacy medication reviews done to pinpoint patients who received medication that counteracts the effects of a drug reaction. Each facility pharmacy prepares a report summarizing the adverse drug events for review by the facility Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee on a monthly basis. The Committee evaluates each event for further action, including notification to the FDA MedWatch program.

The facility Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee tracks and trends all adverse drug reactions with the goal of identifying ways to reduce medication errors and recommends action when necessary.

If you have questions or need additional information, please let me know.

TG:LS:km
309:014

c: Chief Administrative Officer
County Counsel
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors

- Enhance surge capacity for hospitals through the provision of ventilators, pharmaceuticals, medical/surgical supplies and large tent shelters to provide treatment to victims of a terrorist event or other public health emergency.
- Enhance hospital planning and cooperation in a geographical area to include planning regarding surge capacity. This planning should address the use of non-hospital space to shelter and treat mass casualties, including the role of local community health centers and clinics.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Funds

The Public Health Preparedness and Response for Bioterrorism continuation application for Budget Year Four (August 31, 2003 - August 30, 2004) was submitted by Public Health to CDC on July 1. The application was approved and the NGA for the \$24,531,232 that is being allocated to DHS was received on September 5. This grant award was submitted to your Board for approval.

The Department has started the first cohort of Public Health Leadership Training as one of the requirements for the bioterrorism grant. Over 75 executive level and senior managers will participate in the five-day course. The Department is also working with UCLA School of Public Health to train public health senior managers in the Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS) Incident Command System.

DHS Communications Department is working with Clear Channel Communications to develop public health messages to prepare Los Angeles County residents for a bioterrorist attack or any other public health emergency.

The Bioterrorism Grant is providing over \$500,000 to support the redesign of the Emergency Management Information System (EMIS) with the Office of Emergency Management (OEM). The new system will allow Public Health to provide and receive information regarding natural and man-made emergencies.

CDC and HRSA Joint Activities

The Department continues to develop the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) plan with the approved contractor, Community Research Associates, Inc. A Chief Pharmacist has been hired to manage this program on a full-time. Additionally, a physician from the Acute Communicable Disease Control Unit has been assigned to oversee the progress. The CDC conducted a site visit on September 16 to review the progress to date that Los Angeles County has made in the development of the SNS plan. A two-day site visit is scheduled for October 21 and 22.